

Page Page Page
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 TELEGRAM

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EVALUATING U. S. INTELLIGENCE

The move by President Kennedy to re-appraise U. S. intelligence forces and their efficiency was most natural in view of recent events. Yet this move does not mean the President is blaming our Central Intelligence Agency for the Cuban fiasco. Rather, the failure pointed up the need for a overhaul in the system and its goals. Following closely on the heels of the Cuban failure was the uprising by the French generals in Algiers. This move caught CIA flatfooted.

The President has appointed Dr. James R. Killian to head a presidential board on foreign intelligence activities. It will monitor the work of the CIA, agencies of the armed forces, the State Department, the Atomic Energy Commission, and agencies of other branches of the government. Kennedy, in short, is seeking to restore confidence in the intelligence services after recent obvious shortcomings.

The future role of Allan Dulles has been the subject of much speculation. Dulles heads the far-flung activities of the hush-hush CIA. Even Congress is kept from keeping too close tabs on this agency. Its funds are subject to review by no one. It represents the core of American intelligence activity.

After the Cuba flop Dulles was blamed by some Democrats for the fiasco, such blame being natural since he was a carry-over from the previous administration. But Kennedy correctly refused to put all the blame on Dulles. If any blame is to be attributed it must go to Kennedy, for his was the sole decision. Too, blame must go to the top for failing to call in American military experts. The Chiefs of Staff were not even consulted on the matter.

No appraisal, as far as is known, was given by amphibious experts on the abilities of the Cuban rebels to go ashore in Cuba. True, intelligence stumbled badly on Castro's strength and ability to resist armed invasion. But intelligence did not

give the orders or recommend action. It only reported facts.

Dr. Killian seems well qualified for his new post. He headed the same board when it was created back in 1956. He was on former President Truman's communications policy board in 1950. After the Russians fired their first sputnik in 1957 he became President Eisenhower's special science adviser. He grew up in Concord, N. C., went to Duke University for a time and then switched to MIT.